Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring
Consolidated report
MAY 2013

Highlight

- 2013 started with normal to above normal long rains in March to May in most regions resulting in short-cycle crops including pulses to perform well. Favourable rains in also the drought-prone north-eastern and north-western pastoral zones have resulted in substantial regeneration of pasture and browse and recharging of water points.

- The proportion of food secure households is greater than in May last year in all livelihood zones confirming that food access is better at household level compared with last year, primarily thanks to yet another good rainy season.

- WFP has a seasonal approach to food assistance and thus in May, pastoral districts were not planned to receive assistance but work do continue of Food For Asset sites.

- Food consumption score (FCS) for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries have improved since December and is very similar to the same time last year. Over 70% have an acceptable consumption with around 10% having a poor score.

- The price of the Minimum Healthy Food Basket has reduced in most of livelihood zones compared with May and December 2012. However in Grasslands pastoral and Dadaab the price has increased compared with December. Dadaab still has the lowest food basket prices at Ksh 45 per person per day.

- Despite a reduction in the minimum healthy food basket the purchasing power among beneficiaries has not improved. A huge majority cannot afford the minimum basket.

- Coping strategy index has increased for both categories compared with same time last year and with the last round in December and is similar for both at 16-17 indicating that households are still vulnerable and make difficult choices to cope despite improvements.

Food security situation

Since the start of WFP’s Food Security and Outcome Monitoring in May 2012, the North-western pastoral livelihood zone that include Turkana and northern parts of West Pokot has remained the worst off region with over 56% of the population severely food insecure. (see livelihood map on p.9) Grassland pastoral zone (Garissa and Wajir) has improved since December while the Coast, Eastern pastoral and South-eastern marginal mixed farming have all increased the percentage of severely food insecure households.
The food security situation for non-beneficiaries has improved compared with May last year and some 25% are food secure, while 30% are severely food insecure. The situation is somewhat mixed for WFP beneficiaries with a steady and significant increase in proportion of severely food insecure households from 20% in May last year to 40% in 2013. This could indicate that the review and the priority of WFP to improve its targeting to include the most vulnerable is showing results. Only 10% of beneficiaries were food secure.

The below graphs are looking at each livelihood zone and their specific food security situation. Grassland-, Northern- and Southern pastoral zones have the lowest proportion of severely food insecure among the general population (non-beneficiaries). This is also the case for people living with HIV. The proportion of food secure households is greater than in May last year in all livelihood zones confirming that food access is better at household level compared with last year, primarily thanks to yet another good rainy season.

For beneficiaries in the various livelihood zones, as mentioned earlier, North-Western pastoral is by far the worst zone and it is also the case for non-beneficiaries. The zones where beneficiaries are significantly worst off this year compared to May last year is Coastal potential farming-, Eastern pastoral, South-East Marginal and Western agro-pastoral zones. Dadaab refugees and HIV clients have some 20-23% food secure households which is a significant increase since May last year.
Food consumption score (FCS) for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries have improved since December and is very similar with May last year. Over 70% have an acceptable consumption with around 10% having a poor score.

In the livelihood zones, households in Grassland—, Northern and Southern Pastoral zones have some 90-97% of its’ population with an acceptable food consumption. North-Western pastoral zone has less than 50% of households with an acceptable consumption and this is similar to May 2012.

Among North-Eastern pastoral households, both beneficiaries and the general population (non-beneficiaries) have a lower proportion of household with acceptable consumption than in May last year. The meal frequencies for adults and older children remain relatively stable but a declining situation is observed among children 6-59months. An alarming 21% report only eating one meal a day and less than a third of children consume three meals a day. It is possible that this is due to conflicting agricultural activities outside the home, such as weeding and replanting which normally takes place in May, negatively impacting on caring practices.

The proportion of infants and young children who consume 4 or more food groups continue to be unacceptably low. On average only some 20% of children have a dietary diversity that is regarded as acceptable. In most of the livelihood zones there is however an improvement compared with the same time last year. Dadaab has the highest proportion of infants with acceptable feeding practices but this is still a minority.
Sources of Food

Food assistance remain the main source of cereals for a large proportion of beneficiary households as well as for pulses in May 2013. The market is the second most important source for all four commodities presented below. Own production of vegetables and milk are as important as the market. Own production of milk has increased since December and is a seasonal pattern after the long rainy season.

For non-beneficiaries the market is the main source for all commodities apart from milk. Nearly 50% of households reported that their own production is the main source which is a big increase compared with December 2012. Surprisingly, own production of vegetable remain low for both groups.

Sources of Income

The patterns of income generating activities are very similar among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries and is linked to the livelihood zones where they live.

The proportion of households engaging in unskilled labour in the coastal area has reduced compared with December but still remains the most popular income activity. Unskilled labour is also the most common activity in South-Eastern marginal agriculture zone as well as among people living with HIV.

Sales of livestock and livestock products are the most common income generating activity in Grasslands—, North-Eastern— and Southern pastoral zones while sale of natural resources is by far the activity that most households in North-Western pastoral zone engage in.

Many households (15–20%) in the Northern pastoral zone engage in begging, which is much higher than in any other livelihood zone.

Petty trading and small businesses is mentioned by a relatively small group in each zone among non-beneficiaries apart from the Northern pastoral zone where as many as 22% report engaging in this activity.
According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.17% from 139.28 in April 2013 to 139.52 in May 2013. The overall inflation rate stood at 4.05% in May 2013, a decline of 0.10% from a 4.14% in April. This is higher than in December 2012 when inflation was stable at 3.2%.

Between April and May 2013, Food and Non Alcoholic drinks’ Index increased by 0.51%. This was a consequence of rises in the average prices of various food items which more than compensated the decrease in prices of other commodities included in the basket, e.g. the average price of one kilogram of tomatoes increased from Ksh103.8 in April 2013 to Ksh 108.3 in May, 2013. Maize prices have reduced in most of the livelihood zones apart from northern pastoral, grasslands pastoral and western agro pastoral, where prices increased. Dadaab and Kakuma however had marginal maize price increases.

As per the price data collected during the FSOM round, the price of the Minimum Healthy Food Basket has reduced in most of livelihood zones compared with May and December 2012. However in Grasslands pastoral and Dadaab the prices of the basket have increased compared with December. Dadaab still has the lowest food basket prices at Ksh 45 which is largely due to food assistance being sold at the market at lower prices.

The disparity between the national CPI Food and Non Alcoholic drink’s statistics and the Minimum Healthy Food Basket data can be attributed to two reasons: 1) to the overall reduction in the prices of maize and beans and the different proportional weights in the respective baskets and 2) to the non statistical coverage of the arid lands by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.
There is a reduction in the proportion of non-beneficiaries who spend more than 65% of their income on food compared with May and December 2012. This is the reverse among an increasing proportion of beneficiaries, who despite food assistance spend more than 65% of their income on food.

Despite a reduction in the minimum healthy food basket the purchasing power among beneficiaries has not improved. A huge majority cannot afford the minimum basket.

Some 30% of the households in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps do however have an income that would allow them to support themselves with the a healthy food basket from the market. Household in the Southern pastoral zone have the best purchasing power where only a minority of 27% cannot afford the minimum healthy food basket.

Among the households receiving food assistance there is a difference between cash and food recipients and their expenditure patterns. Food recipients, despite receiving cereals in kind, spend a quarter of their income on cereals. In second place comes sugar followed by animal products (17 and 10%). Cash receiving households spend nearly 40% of their money on cereals and very little on sugar and meat/milk (4%). For both groups, education related expenditures are by far the largest non-food expenditure item. May coincide with the payment of the second school term.
**Household Coping Strategies**

In terms of proportion of households who reported having faced shortage of food and/or money to purchase food remain stable at around 75% for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Coping strategy index has increased for both categories compared with same time last year and with the last round in December and is similar for both at 16-17.

Households in the North-western pastoral zone remain with the highest index at 24 and Southern pastoral with the lowest at 4.

People living with HIV has also a relatively low index (9) which is much lower than the average for the round and lower than previous months.

**Use of Food assistance**

There is a slight increase in reported sharing even though by far the large proportion report consuming the food. No one reported having sold food or used it for bartering for more preferred foods.

Some 16% in the coastal area and Western Agro pastoral zones share food with others.
Nutrition Situation

The admission rates in the Supplementary feeding programme for pregnant and lactating women has increased steadily since February and the level is the same as in 2012 but lower than in 2011. The same monthly pattern can be seen among children less than 5 years but the admission levels are lower than both 2011 and 2012. New admissions in Kakuma has remain low and stable throughout 2013 while Dadaab has seen an increase since February which is related to increase in watery diarrhoea as well as active case findings.

Three anthropometric surveys have been conducted this year so far. West Pokot and Garissa have statistically improved since 2011 and Tana River has improved compared with 2012, however all three districts remain in the serious severity classification. The survey in Dagahaley was re-done in February, confirming a GAM rate of 13.3%. IFO was cancelled due to insecurity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>Survey Date (2013)</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>GAM</th>
<th>CI (95%)</th>
<th>Comparison to previous survey</th>
<th>Stunting</th>
<th>CI (95%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Pokot</td>
<td>ACF</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>SMART</td>
<td>9.80%</td>
<td>6.8-12.8</td>
<td>GAM lower than in May 2011 (12.3%)</td>
<td>46.60%</td>
<td>28.2-38.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tana River</td>
<td>IMC</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>SMART</td>
<td>13.80%</td>
<td>10.4-18.5</td>
<td>GAM statistically similar to 2012</td>
<td>33.70%</td>
<td>31.6-44.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garissa</td>
<td>IMC</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>SMART</td>
<td>12.00%</td>
<td>9.3-15.5</td>
<td>GAM lower than in April 2011 (16.2%)</td>
<td>17.10%</td>
<td>13.6-21.2</td>
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Please contact Grace Igweta, WFP M&E unit, Allan Kute or Yvonne Forsen, VAM, should you have any questions.